

Remarks

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 remain in this application. Claim 5, which was indicated to be allowable, has been cancelled, and its limitations have been incorporated into claims 1 and 18. Claims 7, 8 and 15 have been amended to depend from claim 1 inasmuch as the limitations of claim 5 have been incorporated therein.

In the previous office action of 8 November 2005, the examiner indicated that claims 5, 9 and 14 were allowable over the art of record, and that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Applicant concurs, in that none of the references show a channel with a first outward portion having a radius, and a second outwardly extending portion. For example, the cross-sectional shape of the channel of U.S. Patent No. 3,643,630 to Duncan is completely circular, and does not have a further or second outwardly extending portion therefrom.

The examiner had also rejected claim 4 as being indefinite, asserting that the phrase "egg-like" in regard to the cross-sectional shape of the channel was not actually disclosed. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Not only is an "egg-like" shape readily understood in meaning, but it has been previously accepted as a description of shape in the claims of a number of U.S. Patents. These include, for example, claim 4 of 4,654,767 calling for an "egg-like form", claim 3 of 4,527,727 calling for an "egg-like shape in horizontal section," claim 4 of 5,016,916 calling for an "egg-like transverse cross-sectional shape," claim 1 of 5,896,620 calling for an "egg-like shaped handle," claim 1 of 5,901,680 calling for a "substantially egg-like cross-sectional shape" and claim 18 of 6,241,353 calling for a contour shape which is "generally egg-like." Moreover, this term was originally in claim 4 of both the International Application and this National Phase application, and was not rejected for indefiniteness either in the International Preliminary Examination or in a prior office action in this case. Finally, the applicant has provided further disclosure of this term both in Figs. 2 and 3 and at line 13 et. seq. at page 8 of the specification. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that this term is not indefinite and requests withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112 with regard to claim 4.

Title: A HOSE DEVICE

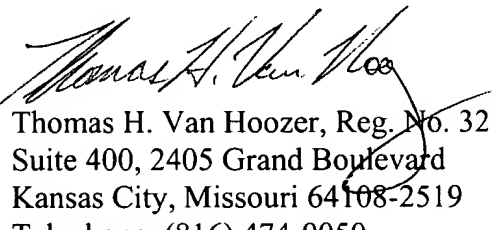
Response to Office Action dated: 8 November 2005

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such is courteously solicited. Should the examiner have any additional issues which may be resolved by a telephone conference, they may be addressed to the undersigned at 1-800-445-3460. Any additional fee necessitated by this submission may be charged to Deposit Account 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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